In the claims:

1. (currently amended) Apparatus in an access point in a wireless communications environment including multiple access points and stations, wherein stations gain network access by associating with one or more of the access points, comprising:

[[logic]] a receiver for receiving messages from stations indicative of a request to associate with the access point; and

computer program code on a computer readable medium, the program code being executed by a processor to:

logic for keeping track of track one or more parameters related to the stations from which the messages have been received in the network;

logic for evaluating evaluate the one or more parameters to produce an evaluation; and

logic for selecting select, for a cycle, no more than a predetermined number of stations from which the message was received to become associated with the access point based upon the evaluation, and [[rejecting]] reject, for the cycle, stations from which the message was received to become associated with the access point but which are not selected because to do so would exceed the predetermined number.

2. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the computer program code obtains at least some of the one or more parameters from logic for keeping track includes logic for receiving messages from stations, and wherein the messages include at least some of the one or more parameters.

3. (original) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein a parameter is the number of stations associated with the access point.

4. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 2 wherein a parameter is the distance of a station from the access point.

5. (original) The apparatus of claim 4 wherein at least some of the one or more parameters are stored in a table.

6. (currently amended) Apparatus in an access point in a wireless communications environment including multiple access points and stations, wherein stations gain network access by associating with one or more of the access points, comprising:

[[logic]] a receiver for receiving messages from stations indicative of a request to associate with the access point; and

computer program code on a computer readable medium, the program code being executed by a processor to:

logic for keeping track [[of]] one or more parameters related to stations from which the messages have been received in the network, wherein the messages include at least some of the one or more parameters;

wherein a parameter may be the number of stations associated with the access point, and wherein another parameter may be the distance of a station from the access point;

~~logic for evaluating~~ evaluate the one or more parameters to produce an evaluation; and

~~logic for selecting~~ select, for a cycle, no more than a predetermined number of stations from which the message was received to become associated with the access point based upon the evaluation, and [[rejecting]] reject, for the cycle, stations from which the message was received to become associated with the access point but which are not selected because to do so would exceed the predetermined number.